

August 16, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

Detroit Legal News: Nominations sought for Wright Lifetime Achievement Award

"Nominations are open for the Daniel J. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award, jointly sponsored by the Michigan Supreme Court and Michigan Department of Human Services, to honor exceptional service to Michigan's children. The award was established in honor of the late Daniel J. Wright of Grand Ledge, an attorney and longtime leader in child support and child welfare reform.... [T]he deadline is September 27, 2013."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Nominations sought for Daniel J. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award; honor recognizes outstanding work in support of Michigan families, children

[Press release](#)

The Detroit News: Sentence reduced for West Michigan man who molested child

"Grand Rapids-area man's sentence for sexually assaulting a child has been reduced by 15 to 35 years because of a state Supreme Court decision. As a result of the high court's ruling in an unrelated case, Mark Carfine's first-degree criminal sexual conduct conviction from last year was set aside, and he pleaded guilty to second-degree sex assault."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Grand Rapids Press: Convicted child molester's sentence reduced 15 to 35 years based on state Supreme Court decision

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Court: Michigan right-to-work law must cover unionized state employees

"The nearly 36,000 unionized employees who work for the State of Michigan are subject to the new right-to-work law, meaning those employees can opt out of paying union dues when the next round of contracts take effect in January. The Michigan Court of Appeals ruled 2-1 [Thursday] that the state's new right-to-work law must cover civil service employees represented by unions."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Associated Press: Court: Right-to-work law applies to state workers

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Crain's Detroit Business, the Daily Tribune, the Macomb Daily, the Midland Daily News, the Oakland Press, the Times Herald/Port Huron, the Traverse City Record-Eagle, WILX-TV(10)/Lansing and WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit.

Lansing State Journal: Appeals court: 'Right to work' applies to state workers

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Battle Creek Enquirer.

The MiLW Blog: COA: Right-to-work law applies to state civil service workers

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Unions lose another fight in right-to-work battle with Michigan Court of Appeals ruling

[*Full story*](#)

Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Court rules right-to-work applies to state employees

[*Full story*](#)

WKAR News/East Lansing: Court Of Appeals Rules Right To Work Law Applies To State Workers

[*Full story*](#)

WJBK-TV(2)/Detroit: State workers lose challenge of right-to-work law

[*Full story*](#)

Detroit Free Press: Feedback: Don't forget the victims of juvenile lifers

Attorney General Bill Schuette writes "The Detroit Free Press editorial on teenage murderers was 529 words long, but it had one key word missing: victims.... For the loved ones of these victims, there are no more Mother's Days or Father's Days or happy birthdays. Only painful remembrance."

[*Full story*](#)

Daily Press & Argus: Appeals court: Pension law violates state constitution

"The Michigan Court of Appeals upheld a lower court ruling that the key element of a law requiring state employees to pay 4 percent of their income to remain in the state's defined benefit pension plan is unconstitutional."

[*Full story*](#)

Also see:

Hometown Life Newspapers: Appeals court: Michigan law requiring state employees to pay 4% to pension plan violates constitution

[*Full story*](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Court rejects changes to state workers' pensions

[*Full story*](#)

Detroit Legal News: UDM School of Law to hold annual Red Mass Sept. 24; Tradition of ceremony at Detroit law school dates back to 1912

"University of Detroit Mercy School of Law will host its 101st annual Red Mass on Tuesday, Sept. 24, at noon at Saints Peter & Paul Jesuit Church, followed by a luncheon in the atrium of the School of Law adjacent to the church.... The Red Mass is intended to be an occasion for judges, lawyers, civic leaders, and law students of all faiths to pray together at the beginning of the new judicial term, 'asking God to bless, strengthen, and enlighten so that in cooperation and mutual trust we may effectively achieve justice for all.' "

[*Full story*](#)

Flint Journal: Offbeat: Smooching in court; torching porta-johns and playing with guns

"No one really likes seeing PDA – that's public displays of affection for those not informed. Flint District Judge M. Cathy Dowd really doesn't like it – at least in her courtroom. I was in her courtroom last week for an arraignment of two men charged with murder when two onlookers in the gallery leaned in for a smooch."

[*Full story*](#)

Grand Rapids Legal News: Update: Judge Logan comments on his memorable Hall of Fame

"Because Judge Benjamin Logan's judicial and professional duties required him to be out of the office last week, he could not be reached in time to comment on his induction into the National Bar Association (NBA) Hall of Fame (Grand Rapids Legal News, August 7, 2013). Now back, he said, 'It was a once-in-a-lifetime feeling, to be inducted by your peers, just a humbling and wonderful experience.' "

[Full story](#)

Grand Rapids Press: Man who tried to kill female corrections officer will be 101 when eligible for parole

"If the judge was looking to make an impact on Willie Lee-Wilson Williams by sentencing him to between 80 and 160 years in prison, it didn't show as the shackled 21-year-old did his best to strut out of the courtroom with a smirk on his face. But Kent County Judge Mark Trusock wanted to send a message that assaulting a corrections officer will be dealt with harshly."

[Full story](#)

Jackson Citizen Patriot: Jackson residents will have to wait on word of stormwater fee refunds

"Jackson residents and business owners will have to wait until this fall for city officials to decide what to do about stormwater utility fee refunds.... In a published opinion released Friday, Aug. 2, the Michigan Court of Appeals ruled the city's stormwater fee enacted in May 2011 an unconstitutional tax that violates the Headlee Amendment. The ruling stated the city will be required to pay back the plaintiffs in the lawsuit, including the County of Jackson, but not other residents or business owners within the city."

[Full story](#)

Lansing State Journal: City Council President Carol Wood cleared of Lansing ethics complaint

"... At issue was whether [Lansing City Council President Carol] Wood failed to report clients of her business, CEW Consultant-Carol Wood LLC, for 2012. Her financial disclosure form this year listed that she had no clients at the time of the filing. Wood later amended her form to include the names of two clients — [one of which was the political campaign] for Ingham County 30th Circuit Court Judge Jim Jamo, who was elected last year to fill retired Judge Paula Manderfield's seat."

[Full story](#)

Lansing State Journal: Editorial: Bolger-Schmidt election misdeed now just history; Lesson to voters: Pay close attention

"The sad chapter of Roy Schmidt's effort to hold onto a seat in the Michigan House despite switching political parties should come to an end now that Ingham County Circuit Judge Rosemarie Aquilina has found no criminal wrongdoing in the matter."

[Full story](#)

The MiLW Blog: Judge's improper remarks caught on tape, JTC drops grievance

"A grievance filed against Van Buren Circuit Judge Paul E. Hamre has apparently been dropped by the Judicial Tenure Commission, even though an audio recording confirms that inappropriate discussions took place among Hamre and two attorneys in a lawsuit, and although the judge now acknowledges the discussion was improper."

[Full story](#)

SBM Blog: Calculate Your Chances Of Passing The Bar Exam -- Except In Michigan

"Witnesseth offers an experimental online calculator of chances of passing the bar exam in every state except Michigan, Louisiana, and the state of Washington. Those states are excluded because recent

changes to the bar there make the older data irrelevant for purposes of calculation. (This blog does not endorse the calculator.)”

[Full story](#)

Traverse City Record-Eagle: Alcohol test service owner charged with crimes

“The owner of a company that provided alcohol and drug testing services for 86th District Court faces felony charges after he falsified test reports and provided them to the court, authorities said. Ryan Matthew Gubbins, 30, of Lake Ann, is charged with felony obstruction of justice and conspiracy to commit obstruction of justice. A warrant was authorized on Aug. 7 but he had not been arrested by Thursday afternoon.”

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The MiLW Blog: 86th District Court given false drug-testing reports?

[Full story](#)

Traverse City Record-Eagle: Medical pot driver faces sex crime charges

“A Thompsonville man who fought Grand Traverse County authorities all the way to the state's highest court over his medical marijuana rights is in more legal hot water with the county. The Grand Traverse County Prosecutor's Office this week authorized felony sex crime charges against Rodney Koon, 52. The charges could result in a 15-year maximum prison sentence.”

[Full story](#)

WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: Judges implore Congress to avoid more cuts

“Judges from 49 states are beseeching Congress to avoid another round of sequestration cuts, saying they ‘would directly affect our ability to carry out our constitutional and statutory duties.’ The letter by 87 federal judges was sent Tuesday to both chambers of Congress, which are in recess until September. It included chief justices from every state but Nevada.”

[Full story](#)